Attorney Docket No. 10559-151001
Serial No.: 09/539,927
Amendment dated January 30, 2004
Reply to Office Action dated October 30, 2003

Amendment to the Claims:

This listing of claims replaces all prior versions, and

listings, of claims in the application:

1.   (Currently amended) A method, comprising:

obtaining policy rules, and simplifying said policy rules,

at least to remove duplicate policy rules and to form simplified

policy rules; and

based on said simplified policy rules, creating an access

control list adapted to configure a network device; and

using the access control list to generate access filters.

2.   (Currently amended) The method of claim 1 further

comprising expanding the policy rules into value groups that

represent conditions occurring in the network device associated

with the policy rules.

3.   (Currently amended) The method of claim 2 ~~further~~

~~comprising~~ wherein said simplifying comprises excluding

conditions that would otherwise be implied by ~~the~~ policy rules.

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4.   (Original) The method of claim 3 further comprising resolving inconsistent conditions that result from expanding the policy rules and excluding the policy rule conditions.

5.   (Original) The method of claim 1 further comprising creating at least one array of included or excluded conditions from the policy rules.

6.   (Currently amended) The method of claim 5 wherein generating the access filters further comprises:

adding filters adapted to control access of a device to ~~another~~ a component other than the network device in the network connected to the network device.

7.   (Original) The method of claim 6 further comprising generating deny filters by combining the at least one array of excluded conditions and the at least one array of included conditions.

8.   (Original) The method of claim 6 further comprising generating permit filters by combining the at least one of the arrays of the included conditions with the remaining arrays of included conditions.

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9.   (Currently amended) A computer network, comprising:

a first device adapted to disseminate policy rules in the
network; and

a second device adapted to receive the policy rules
disseminated on the network by the first device and adapted to:

simplifying said policy rules, at least to remove
duplicate policy rules and to form simplified policy rules;

based on policy rules, create an access control list
adapted to configure the at least one device from the
filters;

and to use the access control list to generate access
filters from the translated policies.

10.   (Original) The system of claim 9 wherein the second
device further comprises a permit filter.

11.   (Original) The system of claim 10 further comprising a
plurality of data-storage devices adapted to permit access to
the second device.

12.   (Original) The system of claim 9 wherein the second
device further comprises a deny filter.

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13.   (Original) The system of claim 12 further comprising a plurality of data-storage devices adapted to deny access to the second device.

14.   (Currently amended) An article comprising a computer-readable medium which stores computer executable instructions for managing policy rules on a network, the instructions causing a computer to:

simplifying said policy rules, at least to remove duplicate policy rules and to form simplified policy rules;

based on policy rules, create an access control list adapted to configure the devices from the simplified rules; and

use the access control list to generate access filters.

15.   (Currently amended) The article of claim 14 further comprising instructions to expand the policy rules into value groups, wherein value groups represent conditions occurring in the network device associated with the policy rules.

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16.   (Original) The article of claim 15 wherein the instructions to translate the policy rules further includes instructions to exclude conditions that would otherwise be implied by the policy rules.

17.   (Original) The article of claim 16 wherein the instructions to translate the policy rules further includes instructions to resolve inconsistent conditions that result from expanding the policy rules and excluding the policy rule conditions.

18.   (Currently amended) A network device, comprising:
a configurable management process located on the device having instructions to:

    receive the policy rules in a network device;

    translate the policy rules to a set of simplified rules <u>at least</u> <u>removing duplicate parts of said rules to</u> <u>form said simplified rules</u>;

    create an access control list adapted to configure the ~~devices~~ <u>network device</u> from the simplified rules; and

    use the access control list to generate access filters.

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19.   (Original) The device of claim 18 further comprising a

connection to an external network.

20.   (Original) The device of claim 19 wherein the external

network is a local area network.

21.   (Original) The device of claim 19 wherein the external

network is the Internet.

22-24.   (Cancelled)

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